

## How Social Innovations (can/do) empower youth people (in risk of marginalization) and engage them in community action?

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*Learning for Change: A Journey through the Theory & Practice of  
Transformative Social Innovation*





# The TRANSIT project

To develop a theory of transformative social innovation, grounded and tested in empirical research, useful to academics and practitioners.

TSI  $\approx$  a change in social relations, involving new ways of doing, organising, framing and/or knowing, which challenges, alters and/or replaces dominant institutions/structures in a specific social context (Haxeltine et al, 2016)



# Styding 20 SI networks

the project | Find resources | Key Take Aways | Discover our cases | Critical Turning Points-database | Agenda | Blog & News | Contact

Working papers | Deliverables | Practice Briefs | Case study reports | Scientific publications

## Case study reports

TRANSIT-researchers have interacted with and studied 20 transnational networks – for each network they focused on the network level as well as on 2-3 local manifestations. Below you can find the case study reports.

### Case study reports

Balázs, B., Smith, A., Aistara, G. and Bela, G. (2015) [WP 4 : case study report : Transnational Seed Exchange Networks](#), TRANSIT: EU SSH.2013.5.2-1 Grant agreement no: 613169.

Cipolla, C.; Afonso, R.; Wittmayer, J.; Bibiana, S. and Rach, S. (2016) [WP 4 : case study report : participatory budgeting](#), TRANSIT: EU SSH.2013.5.2-1. Grant agreement no: 613169.

Dumitru, A., Lema-Blanco, I., García-Mira, R., Haxeltine, A. and Frances. A. (2015) [WP4 : case study report : Credit Unions](#). TRANSIT: EU SSH.2013.5.2-1 Grant agreement no: 613169.

Dumitru, A.; Lema-Blanco, I.; Kunze, I. and García-Mira, R. (2016) [Slow food movement. Case-study report](#). TRANSIT: EU SSH.2013.5.2-1 Grant agreement no: 613169.

Elle, M., Gamenen, V. van, Pel, B., Aagaard, H. K. and Jørgensen, M. S. (2015) [WP4 : case study report : INFORSE](#). TRANSIT: EU SSH.2013.5.2-1 Grant agreement no: 613169.

Hielscher, S., Smith, A. and Fressoli, M. (2015) [WP4 : case study report : Fab Labs](#). TRANSIT: EU SSH.2013.5.2-1 Grant agreement no: 613169.

Hielscher, S., Smith, A. and Fressoli, M. (2015) [WP4 : case study report : Hackerspaces](#). TRANSIT: EU SSH.2013.5.2-1 Grant agreement no: 613169.

transformative  
social innovation  
theory

the HUB, Ashoka,  
Time Banks, Credit  
Unions, RIPESS,  
FABLABS,  
Hackerspace,  
Living Knowledge  
Network, DESIS-  
network, Global  
Ecovillage Network,  
Transition Towns,  
INFORSE



# Learning from change: Credit Unions

5 European manifestations:

- **FEBEA**
- **Fiare Banca Etica (Spain)**
- **3 Northwich Credit Unions (UK)**



Democratic financial institutions which share ethical values, follow strict principles of transparency in the placement of assets and egalitarian participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process and are oriented to social and sustainable development

(Source: Dumitru et al, 2015)

# Method

- **20 In-depth interviews** to practitioners from FEBEA & FIARE:
  - a) *the emergence and evolution of the initiatives*
  - b) *models of organization & external governance*
  - c) *relation with social innovation & narratives of change*
  - d) *social learning processes, resources, monitoring and evaluation*
- **Participant observation** (meetings, conferences) and
- **Document review** (internal, scientific, mass media)

*What is the role of social learning in social innovation processes?*

# How do credit unions contribute to transitions towards sustainable economies?

CUs & credit cooperatives are grassroots SI which contribute to the creation of new ways of doing, relating and framing in the financial system :

- 1) Offer an **alternative to mainstream banks**, oriented to responsible/conscious consumer that *seeks a bank where their money do not contribute to certain activities (speculation, army, pollution)*.
- 2) **Intermediary role**: Respond to the increasing needs of individuals and institutions that are excluded from the banking system, enhancing “collective entrepreneurship” and social & solidarity economy.
- 3) **Political/lobby activity**: Aiming system change and sustainable transformation of economic relations.

## *What did CUs learn to successfully achieve their objectives?*

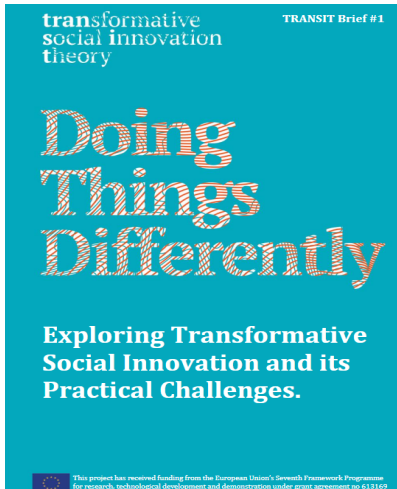
- Building a coherent **discourse of change**
- Building **new social relations** which contest the relations of power underlining the current financial system
- Developing **strategies of engagement** with community actors by cultivating a culture of **inclusiveness and collaboration**
- **Networking**: FEBEA provides meaningful opportunities for learning and finding new allies to collaborate at wider scales.
- Gaining certain **political influence**. FEBEA has become an interlocutor for the European institutions

## *Strategies to engage new members and maintain motivation*

- Creating an **respectful environment** which facilitates **trust-building** and **cooperation** (sharing common spaces, face-to-face meetings)
- **Engaging in meaningful activities**, which provides plenty opportunities to meet and learn from each other.
- **Feeling part of a group of like-minded others**, sharing common goals, as well as creates the conditions for self-determined, autonomous action.
- **Experimenting with new forms of doing and relating**. Fulfilling members' aspirations, aligning with their values, while maintaining core values and principles



# TRANSIT insights for practitioners





# TRANSIT – Synthesis Workshop

*Motivations, relations and transformations: the role of social learning in individual and collective agency for social innovation.*

*A Coruña, 8th-9th of June 2016*

# Motivations and empowerment through social innovation

transformative  
social innovation  
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TRANSIT - Third  
integration workshop

Motivations, relations and transformations: the role of social learning in individual and collective agency for social innovation

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Mark Gamsu @markgamsu

Not the way to fund a care pathway – the role of the voluntary sector #VCS #NHS #SDOH

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How It Works

For every hour's help a member gives another, (eg guitar lesson, digging garden, giving a massage), they receive one time credit which they can spend on receiving help from another member (eg fixing a bike, setting up a wifi connection, hanging some wallpaper).

Time credits are banked in the TimeBank using a software package called TimeOnline and the TimeBank timebroker matches up the giver and receiver.

No money changes hands at any point - and it doesn't affect anyone receiving benefits

Jenny helps Enid by doing some shopping 2 hours (2 x time credits earned)

Enid gives Michelle a knitting lesson 1 hour (1 x time credit earned)

Michelle gives Adam a hair cut 1 hour (1 x time credit earned)

Adam helps Dave hang some wallpaper for 3 hours (3 x time credits earned)

great that I can get help too!

Name: Megan

I am offering... House Sitting, Shopping, Computer Skills, Errands, Assisting at Events and more!

I request... Design Work, Massage, Piano Lessons, A Walking Companion.

I joined TimeBank... ...as I think it is a great tool for bringing communities together and raising people's community spirit. A way of getting people to give their time who wouldn't normally volunteer as TimeBanking is so flexible.

Name: Dave Blackwell

Our social base is getting “mature” ...  
do we have something for young people?  
(they do not use banks!!)

Board  
Member since (average): 14 years  
Mean age: 50 years

How can we reach middle-class,  
“average” citizens?

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... THAN JUST COME AND SAY

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AND WE WILL START TO DO GREAT THINGS

TOGETHER

I joined TimeBank...

“I think it is a great tool for bringing communities together and raising people's community spirit. A way of getting people to give their time who wouldn't normally volunteer as TimeBanking is so flexible

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# Objectives of the session

-Understanding **How can Social Innovations empower youth people and engage them in community action**  
(*involving new ways of thinking, knowing, doing and framing*)

-Exploring the **relationship between:**

- ***Social innovation & motivations: youth engagement in TSI***
- ***Social innovation & empowerment***
- ***Social learning & institutional transformative impact***

# Discussants



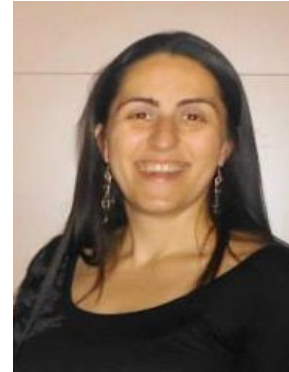
**Kate Macdonald**  
**TimeBank Hull**  
**and East Riding**  
Director/Co-  
ordinator  
Kingston-Upon-Hull



**Jordi Ibáñez**  
**Fiare Banca**  
**Etica**  
Director of Fiare  
's Foundation



**Michael B.**  
**Marks**  
Senior  
researcher

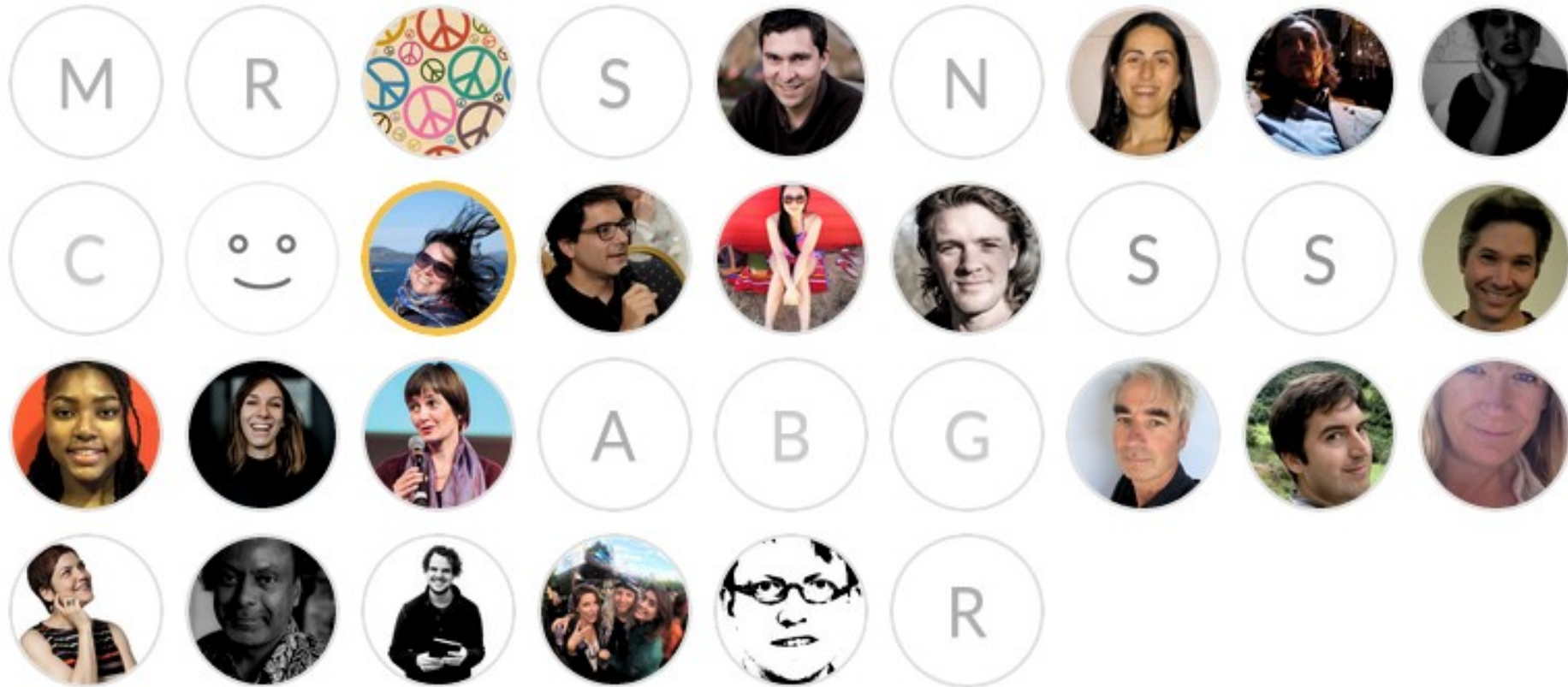


**Sanda**  
**Rakocevic**  
**YOUsee**  
**Platform**  
Manager of the  
**You see!** and  
Director of ADP-  
Zid (Association  
for democratic  
prosperity)



# Engaging audience

Attendees (33)



# Thanks for your attention

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**More info:**

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